



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CD
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/828,615	04/06/2001	William C. Olson	64672/JPW/SHS/NS	5850
7590	02/23/2004		EXAMINER	
Cooper & Dunham, LLP 1185 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036			STUCKER, JEFFREY J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1648	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/828,615	OLSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jeffrey Stucker	1648

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2003 and 20 January 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 23-45 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 23-45 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

Art Unit: 1648

This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed after final on 8/25/03 and the RCE filed 1/20/04. Claims 23-45 are pending and rejected.

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 8/25/03 has been entered.

Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. It is apparent specific monoclonal antibodies are required to practice the claimed invention. As such, they must be readily available or obtainable by a repeatable method set forth in the specification, or otherwise known and readily available to the public. If it is not so obtainable or available, the

requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, may be satisfied by an enabling deposit of antibodies. It is noted that the Applicants have deposited the antibodies but there is no indication in the specification as to public availability. Therefore, a deposit at a recognized depository may be made for enablement purposes.

If a deposit is made under the terms of the Budapest Treaty, then an affidavit or declaration by Applicants, or statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature and registration number, stating that the instant invention will be irrevocably and without restriction released to the public upon the issuance of a patent, would satisfy the deposit requirement made herein. If a deposit has not been made under the Budapest Treaty, then in order to certify that the deposit meets the criteria set forth in 37 CFR 1.801-1.809 and MPEP 2402-2411.05, Applicant may provide assurance of compliance by affidavit or declaration, or by a statement by an attorney of record over his or her signature and registration number showing that:

- (a) during the pendency of the application, access to the invention will be afforded to the Commissioner upon request;
- (b) all restrictions upon availability to the public will be irrevocably removed upon granting of the patent;

Art Unit: 1648

- (c) the deposit will be maintained in a public depository for a period of 30 years. Or 5 years after the last request for the enforceable life of the patent, whichever is longer;
- (d) a test of the viability of the biological material at the time of deposit (see CFR 1.807); and
- (e) the deposit will be replaced if it should ever become inviable.

The rejection of claims 23-25 and 28-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Vila-Coro et al. (PNAS 3/00) is maintained for the reasons that previous claims 1-22 were rejected under this statute.

Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but are not deemed to be persuasive. Applicant argues in regards to new claim 23 that the Vila-Coro reference describes a prophylactic treatment which involves treating a group of SCID mice prior to infection and viral steady-state whereas the claim 23 specifically recites treatment solely after a viral steady state is reached. Applicant points to Poignard and Gauduin to show that antibodies may be useful in preventing infection while providing a limited degree of protection, or none at all, when administered after infection has taken place. Applicant notes

Art Unit: 1648

that Poignard disclosed the use of MAb b12 purportedly for use in the Vila-Coro reference. Gauduin also teaches the use of this same MAb. Applicant argues that these references indicate that the antibody is effective only when it is administered no more than several hours after viral exposure.

Applicant's comments concerning the b12 MAb are not understood nor convincing because the antibody of Poignard and Gauduin is directed to an epitope of HIV gp120 (Gauduin, p. 1389, last paragraph of the second column), not an epitope of chemokines as in the instant claims and Vila-Coro. Therefore, these comments are not relevant to the rejection.

Applicant reiterates previously proffered arguments at the bottom of page 22 bridging to the top of page 23. These are not convincing for reasons of record.

In regards to new claim 24, the limitation of inhibiting binding of HIV-1_{JR-FL} gp120 to CCR5 does not distinguish over the prior art. A method that treats "HIV" infection would be expected to treat HIV-1_{JR-FL} because this particular strain uses the same mechanism of infection, namely CCR5 mediated binding, to enter cells. It is known in the art that this strain is CCR5 tropic and, absent evidence to the contrary, would be expected to function vis-à-vis the receptor mechanism as any other "HIV". Thus, the instant invention is obvious over Vila-Coro et al.

No claims are allowed.

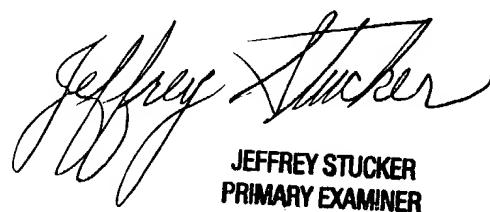
Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG (November 15, 1989).

The Group 1600 Official Fax number is: (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Stucker whose telephone number is (571)-272-0911. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Thursday from 7:00am-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Housel, can be reached on (571)-272-0902.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



JEFFREY STUCKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER